(e) if so, the steps being taken by Government to immediately stop such practice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (c) As per National Family Health Survey-Ill (NFHS-III) nearly 45% of women in the country, aged between 20 and 24, were married off before the age of 18 years. Percentage of cases occurring in States like Bihar (67%), Jharkhand*(61%), Rajasthan (57%), Andhra Pradesh (55%), Madhya Pradesh (53%), Uttar Pradesh (53%), West Bengal (53%) and Chhattisgarh (52%) reflect a high incidence of girls married below 18 -years.

(d) and (e) In order to prohibit child marriages and to make the provisions of the Act more effective and punishment more stringent for offenders, a new legislation "The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006" (No. 6 of 2007) has been enacted and notified in the Gazette of India on 11th January, 2007. Also, awareness generation and advocacy measures are continuously being undertaken by the Ministry of Women and Child Development in this connection.

Objective of NORAD Scheme

2256. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BALAPTE:
SHRI SHREEGOPAL WAS:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the objective of Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) Scheme;

(b) the number of NGOs which have been allocated fund under NORAD scheme during each of the last three years, State-wise and NGO-wise;

(c) whether Government has made any assessment of the performance of such NGOs; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Government against the NGOs whose performance was found unsatisfactory?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Swawlamban

Scheme, previously known as Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NQRAD) Scheme, is fully funded from the domestic resources. It aims at providing traning and skill development to women to facilitate their obtaining employment or self-employment-on a sustained basis. The target group under the scheme are the poor and needy women, women from weaker sections of society, such as SCs and STs, etc. The scheme stands transferred to the States with effect from 1.4.2006.

(b) The information is available in the Annual Reports of the Ministry. The same can also be accessed at the website of the Ministry titled www.wcd.nic.in

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Monitoring and Evaluation with .reference to performance of the Swawlamban projects is undertaken by the State Women Development Corporations/Central Social Welfare Board through its State Social Welfare Advisory Boards. Appropriate action, including recovery of GOI grant and black-listing of the organizations/institutions/ NGOs, is taken in those cases where the performance is found to be unsatisfactory.

Scheme to eradicate malnutrition

2257. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
MS. MABEL REBELLO:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) which are the scheme sponsored by Government to eradicate malnutrition among children;

(b) whether Government have assessed the performance of such
- schemes;

(c) if so, the details of benchmarks to assess the performance of these schemes;

(d) whether Government agree with the finding of the recent National Family Health Survey indicating high incidents on malnutrition; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken to improve the performance of.existing schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND